

WISCONSIN



FEBRUARY 2021

American Legion Auxiliary
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www.amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JOANIE DICKERSON
Department
President

Countdown to Spring! I like to focus on the positive and our well-being depends on the good happening around us. We are a part of that good. Although we are limited in our direct contact with others at this time, we continue to find ways to fulfill our commitment to our mission of Service, not self.

Two of our programs, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Children & Youth, both pillars of

The American Legion, came together at Van Ellis-Shanen Unit 82 in Port Washington this past year. Working with their local post, members of the unit under the direction of President Diane Burkhalter started a twice-a-month gathering of local youth called Scholarship and Service Saturdays (SSS) that focused on projects that assist veterans. At the time of their report, this group created over 200 cards for delivery to the VA and various local facilities for Veterans Day. The cards were also given to local veterans at their annual

Veterans Day lunch.

Another project the SSS group undertook was a personal hygiene items, books and sock "Sock it to the Vets" drive. A blanket making project was also a part of this drive. More than 60 fleece and crocheted blankets were made and donated. Local youth (non-Legion Family members) accompanied Auxiliary members to the VA Medical Center to deliver these and other items. A trip to the VA was also made to deliver treats and Valentines made by the group.

The scholarship portion of their

group's name comes from their focus on educating local youth about The American Legion's Oratorical program and the scholarship opportunities open to them. Members assisted the participants with their scholarship applications to answer any questions that arose and ensured they were complete. Assistance was also provided with oratorical essays if requested. What a great way to increase involvement in these programs! Their intent was to continue meeting until the end of the school year, but because of the pandemic, the group was

forced to stop meeting last spring. The members of the unit and post are anxious to resume their twice monthly gatherings as soon as possible. They feel the connections they created between the veterans and the youth of their community are vital for passing on the history of country and the service of the men and women willing to protect our freedoms. GREAT JOB members of Port Washington Unit 82 and congratulations for being selected as a recipient of the Department President's 2020 Award for Excellence.

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Coppock
Department Chairman
Email: beatrice2554@gmail.com
Ph: 920-982-5811
Auxiliary Dues Renewal
National Number: 317-569-4570

Happy Groundhog Day! Do you feel like you are actually living that movie some days? I do! But then I get a membership call or read the most current posting of membership goals and I am back to reality! I am trying to stay on course, though my sails seem to be a little tattered some days.

I want to thank all the units that submitted a mid-year report. Reporting was minimal due to the lack of unit activity, and we all know why! The units that did report had some great information that made it easy for me to share what Wisconsin is doing to stay alive during this trying time. Communication is the key factor reported by all units reporting. "Sailor Shout-outs" are very important at this time. If you are not

meeting, consider newsletters, e-mails, Zoom meetings and conference calls. Dane and Outagamie Counties reported they are being successful staying in touch with members utilizing some of these methods. Many other units and districts are doing the same. We need to follow their beacons and set sail for that course!

By now, ALL 2021 membership dues should be paid. National's second dues notices were mailed February 1st. Remember, unpaid members are considered delinquent and are not eligible to hold an officer and/or chairmanship position on any level. If this is you, please get your dues paid as we do not want to lose good leaders because of a minor oversight! Once processed, members will be reinstated with no adverse consequences. To all you members who are paid, I personally want to THANK YOU! You have made a great impact on our membership goals nationally and I am very proud of where

Wisconsin is currently placed in the membership challenge to get to 100%!

As of January 20th, Wisconsin was in second place in the Central Division at 81.83%, behind Iowa at 84.36%. On the national level, behind Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, we were in 4th place, and that is a great position to be! Congratulations members for being prompt on paying your dues. Continue your good work! A great thank you to all units for getting your officers paid on time and returning the 2020-2021 Unit Officer Form. I have to believe this has been a major, positive impact on our membership percentages and I thank you! Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Remember to congratulate The American Legion for being 102 years old March 15, 2021! Without them, there would be no "us!" Stay Anchored, Focus on the Course Set for the Future! March-out...



CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL OFFICE

Anyone interested in running for Department or National office must email their announcement with a head and shoulder photo to Bonnie Dorniak at deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org by Monday, March 22, 2021 for publication in the next Wisconsin. Announcements should be 300-350 words.

SETTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Becky Mueller
Department Chaplain
Email: clarenceandbecky@aol.com
Ph: 920-833-6048

“But a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.” Genesis 2:6 “and they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden” Genesis 3:8

Welcome to 2021! We hope it will be better, kinder, gentler than 2020 and yet we still feel like we are in a cold, damp, gray fog unable to see ahead or behind, unable to hear clearly, sure we are alone in our struggles.

We forget that the Lord created the fog – the mist to cover the ground each day – watering the earth and refreshing and reviving all of creation. We forget that it was in the middle of the swirling mists with vision hampered, sounds muted, distractions reduced that You, Lord, came down to the garden to walk and talk directly to each one of us.

Many of our hearts and minds are heavy with worry and fears that we are afraid to express. We feel overwhelmed and alone but don't seek help. We battle an invisible enemy stalking our world's health and wellbeing in isolation. We are anxious as protests and riots happen and we feel unable or unwilling to act. We watch the news becoming discouraged and distressed but don't turn it off. We withdraw from the world into depression and addictions caught in the trap. We face death alone not able to be there with one another. We see disappointments instead of dreams. Workplace stress invades our homes turned offices. Our financial pressures mount – our savings evaporate, and we don't see options or help.

Now is the time to reach out to one another offering acceptance and hope. We are not alone in the gray cold damp. We have our God who remains in control! We have our Legion Family to support, guide and surround us with love and understanding! Reach out! Call someone. Write a note. Smile. Deliver cookies. Just be there!

Pray with me. Lord, as we close our minds to the swirling mists that surround us and focus our senses on Your presence, open our hearts and wrap them in the arms of love and grace as You listen and respond to our deepest concerns and desires.

Music
In the Garden by Austin Miles

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Ph: 608-745-0124
Email: deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org

Happy 2021! I am hoping this year does not bring any negative surprises and we can all find a better balance than we had in 2020.

Poppy orders were due December 15th, but the Poppy Shop still has a limited supply of poppies available so place an order today if you still need some. Orders will be accepted in the order received while supplies last. The poppy order form can be downloaded from the department website.

Anyone interested in running for Department or National Office for the 2021-2022 administrative year must email their announcement with a head/shoulder photo to me by Monday, March 22, 2021 for publication in the next issue of the Wisconsin. Announcements should be 300-350 words.

Do you know anyone graduating from high school and planning to attend college? The American Legion Auxiliary offers more than \$25,000 in scholarships at the state and national levels. Encourage potential college students to apply for a scholarship today. Applications are posted on the department website. Students must submit completed applications to a local unit. The unit president should carefully review the application for accuracy, sign it and mail it to Educa-

tion Chairman Lauren Miller by March 15, 2021. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Questions? Please contact Lauren at hurricanelauren11@gmail.com.

The national organization mailed final renewal notices to members whose 2021 dues were not processed by Department Headquarters by January 1st. If you received a notice but think your dues were paid, please verify with your Unit Membership Chairman that your payment was transmitted to department headquarters as things may have crossed in the mail. Members who have not paid their 2021 dues are now delinquent and have lost all benefits of membership – including the right to hold office, vote on unit matters, or qualify for financial assistance through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Members may reinstate their membership by paying their dues to their unit or department headquarters. To expedite processing, members may also pay by phone at 317-569-4570 (Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm) or online at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Questions about paying online should be directed to the national organization at alahq@ALAforVeterans.org.

Unit presidents are reminded to submit their Unit Year-End Reports by April 15th. Members should report their activities to their unit president by April 1st so they can be included in the unit report. The Impact Report is a numeric report that details direct

support to our veterans, the military and their families and is presented to Congress. The Narrative Reports allow units to describe in detail the various activities they accomplished throughout the year. This information is used by the department chairmen when they write their annual reports for the national organization. President Joanie Dickerson will also review the narrative reports to select units for possible recognition at department convention. PLEASE – be proud of your accomplishments and take time to report them! You cannot be recognized for your efforts if they aren't reported.

Do you want to know more about what the American Legion Auxiliary does and how we make a difference? Check out the department website! There is a lot of information under “Program Info,” “Dept Chrm/Action Plans” and the bimonthly Unit Mailings. If you learn better through hands-on education, attend the ALA in the Know session at the Legion's Midwinter in May Conference on Saturday, May 8th! The Conference was postponed from January and rescheduled for May 7-9, 2021 at Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo. For more information or to register for the conference, visit www.wilegion.org > Get Connected > Conventions and Events > 2021 Midwinter Conference. If you would like to attend the ALA in the Know session, please mark that on the reservation form.

AMERICANISM

Maggie Geiger
Dept. Chairman
Ph: 262-377-0329
Email: geigermaggie2@gmail.com

(Crossword Hint) The American Legion Auxiliary Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship, but how can we promote the program with COVID-19 changing every aspect of our lives personally, professionally and as a member of the ALA?

The Americanism Essay Contest is a great way to help our youth develop or improve their understanding of the needs of our veterans, military and their families. The essay theme is the same as last year: “How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?” However, essays submitted last year cannot be resubmitted this year.

I am so excited to read this year's entries, to understand what the students' thoughts are, gain a perspective of how the pandemic has changed their lives, and what ideas they have to improve the daily lives of our veterans, military and their families. We will gain insight as to how they see our new “normal” going forward. I believe we will learn something new, too. Perhaps an idea will resonate with your unit and be implemented. Who knows what the results could be!

When submitting the essay, use the updated essay submission form that is available on the department's website, www.amlegionauxwi.org. It can be found under the Americanism Plan of Action

or go to Program Info > Americanism > Americanism Essay Contest submission form. I cannot stress enough to make sure the current submission form is filled out completely. In the event of a school closing, contact the teacher to make arrangements to pick up the essays.

On the department website you can also find the template for the “I Spy You Fly” for homes and businesses. This is a great way to thank community members for flying the American flag and to promote your unit!

Many units are not able to hold regular meetings. Don't forget to do “Sailor Shout Outs” to your members to see how they are doing or if they have any needs. May be they would be interested in leaving an “I Spy You Fly” letter at a neighbor's home. Thank you to all units that sent in

mid-year reports. So many units thought outside the box and continued promoting the Americanism program in this difficult time. I am always amazed at our members. Even during this upside-down year, your love and support for our veterans is unwavering!

We Noticed Your American Flag

If you're a veteran, servicemember or direct relative, please join The American Legion Family to help us make a difference, promote patriotism, and serve America in our local community.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY APPLICANT INFORMATION Yearly Membership Dues Only:

Full Name: _____
 Address, City, State, Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____ Unit # and Location (if known): _____
 (Date of Birth (Required)) Birth - 17 18 and over
 Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)
 Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA CF: _____
 Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date: _____
ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION
 Eligible Through - Name of Veteran (Female Veterans List Your Own Name)
 If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____
 Deceased (if veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)
 Veterans Served: WWI (1917-1918) WWI/WWII (1917-1918) WWII (1941-1945) All that apply:
 Global War on Terror Lebanon/Cambodia WWI Gulf War Vietnam Korea
 Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:
 Male Spouse Female Spouse Mother Daughter Grandmother
 Sister Brother Grandfather
 To be Completed By: The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer
 I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.
 Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date: _____
 Submit the application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If not in uniform, contact National Headquarters at (817) 398-6000 for assistance. Annual dues must accompany completed application. An fee contact for amount due. Membership pending approval of application.

American Legion Auxiliary — Helping Veterans Since 1919

THE AMERICAN LEGION APPLICANT INFORMATION Yearly Membership Dues Only:

Name: _____ (First) (Initial) (Last) (Date of Birth) _____
 Mailing Address: _____ (Street) (City) (State) (ZIP) _____
 (Phone) (Email) _____
 Male Female (Post #) (Unit #)
 I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.
 Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:
 Global War on Terror WWI U.S. Army U.S. Navy U.S. Air Force
 France Other Conflicts U.S. Marine U.S. Coast Guard
 Lebanon/Cambodia Vietnam Korea Merchant Marines (WWI only)
 Signature of Applicant _____ Date: _____
 Name of Recruiter _____
 Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Full fees contact for amount due. For current department/area address, go to www.legion.org. ALA 2019

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION APPLICANT INFORMATION Yearly Membership Dues Only:

Date: _____ (Date of Birth) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 Birth Date: _____ (Month) (Day) (Year) _____
 Name: _____ (First) (Initial) (Last) _____
 Address: _____ (Street) (City) (State) (ZIP) _____
 Phone: _____ (Home) (Cell) (Work) (Fax) _____
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
 (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
 (c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran: _____
 Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____
 (If yes, please provide name and address of the post.)
 Email Address: _____ (Home) (Work) (Cell) (Fax) _____
 By _____ (Signature) _____ (Print Name) _____ (Date) _____
 Signature of Applicant (or Parent) _____ (Print Name) _____ (Date) _____
 Annual dues must accompany completed application. Return completed application to the contact below. For more information, visit www.legion.org. ALA 2019

For questions, and to submit this application, please contact:
 FIRST & LAST NAME
 PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL
 POST, UNIT OR SQUADRON NAME
 0000 STREET ADDRESS
 CITY, STATE ZIP

EDUCATION

Lauren Miller
Dept. Chairman
Email: hurricanel Lauren11@gmail.com

When we help our students find out about scholarships, donate school supplies, and support school staff in our community, we are definitely "Setting a Course for the Future!" As March approaches, it is time to put our efforts into promoting the unit, department, and national scholarships available.

Follow up with contacts at your local schools so students are reminded to apply and can ask about the required paperwork or eligibility criteria. You may need to be creative in getting information out to students in your unit and schools within your communi-

ties, but there is likely a great need this year with so many impacted by the pandemic.

Also related to the pandemic, the national organization has stated, "Under the unusual circumstances of this year, the SAT/ACT requirement will be waived for the 2021 scholarship applications. If the student is able to take the test at some point, the score should be included. If a student is unable to take the test, please include a notation with the application that the student was unable to take the test due to COVID-19 restrictions."

Please encourage anyone you believe may be eligible to apply for the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, which is a newer scholarship for Auxiliary members who were a Ju-

nior member and have continued as a senior member. This scholarship can be awarded to a traditional college student who has not yet earned their Bachelor's degree, has maintained ALA membership from 2018-2020, has paid the current membership dues for 2021, and will hold continuous membership for the length of the scholarship. Each Division will award two of these scholarships, and Wisconsin had a winner last year!

Scholarship applications are due to Unit Presidents by March 1st. Unit Presidents/Education Chairmen, please review to be sure the applicant has filled out everything completely and has followed all of the rules of the scholarship, and then be sure to sign it. Units

may enter only one candidate per scholarship for each National scholarship. However, units can certify as many department scholarship applications as they receive. Applicants may apply for each scholarship for which they are eligible. I look forward to receiving all applications by March 15, 2021.

While there is a focus at this time on scholarships, I'd like to thank the units who sent in mid-year reports. It has been a tough year with so many schools doing things differently, but all your efforts to continue promoting the Education Program are appreciated. Please send pictures to hurricanel Lauren11@gmail.com if you have any related to your Education Program endeavors this year!

LEADERSHIP

Kathy Baranzky
Dept. Chairman
Ph: 414-628-0360
Email: kbaranzky@wi.rr.com

A good day to everyone, wishing you a safe and healthy day. 2020 has been a challenging year. With coronavirus, there has been a halt on many things for the safety of our members. In 2021, my team and I would like to move forward, hosting Leadership Classes. I encourage you to select a date this coming spring to schedule a class ahead of time. Please contact me to discuss details.

Classes include handout materials and a handbook. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The hosting unit is responsible for providing a light lunch or refreshments. Classes run

from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and may be scheduled until July 1st. There are four classes to choose from:

I AM A MEMBER, WHAT'S NEXT:
 You will become familiar with the history of the ALA – its purpose, growth, development, mission and vision. New members will learn all about the ALA jargon, the structure of our organization and how to get involved. Senior members will learn how to mentor and work with new members using a positive attitude.

REPORTING-MAKING YOUR NUMBERS COUNT:
 You will learn how to make reporting fun.

Participants learn the reporting structure, what forms to use and how, when to use them and where to send them. Attendees will see how they fit into the big picture of our organization. New members will gain knowledge and understanding of the process and experience so they can achieve a greater effectiveness.

HOW TO RUN A MEETING & USES OF TECHNOLOGY:

Attendees will learn how to develop and improve protocol in running a meeting. Participants will learn how to be knowledgeable and informed leaders. Participants will learn our organization's websites, allowing them greater knowledge

and insight into the programs and resources available to them.

CONFLICT – RESOLUTIONS AND COMMUNICATION:
 We are all aware of conflict and no one likes to deal with it, but at times it does make its way into our units. Participants in this program will learn how to foster a culture of goodwill within our organization. You will learn positive ways for dealing with stressful situations with difficult people and how to resolve them.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let's make 2021 a positive year!

WORD SEARCH CONTEST WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Auxiliary Word Search Contest in the December issue of this publication. I was amazed that we received over 600 entries! The winners of the December Word Search Contest are:

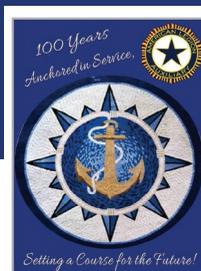
X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	D	A	N	N	Y
L	U	C	I	L	L	E	X
X	X	X	T	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	H	X	X	X	X

DANNY FRUTIGER – of American Legion Post 53 in Eau Claire. He is a Vietnam era veteran of the Navy and has been a member of the Legion for 39 years.

LUCILLE LUND – of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 301 in Woodville. She joined in 1975 to honor the service of her husband Russell.

EDITH VROMAN – of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 339 in Almond. She joined in 1984 in honor of her husband Lawrence.

Congratulations and thanks for playing! I received many notes indicating people enjoyed the word search and would like to see more of them. In the meantime, good luck with this month's crossword puzzle! (See Page A5)



2021 SET THE COURSE New Member Award Entry Form

Sign up one **NEW 2021 Senior or Junior Auxiliary** member and be entered into a cash drawing for \$75.
Deadline: May 28, 2021

A Set the Course entry may be submitted for EVERY new 2021 member you recruit. TAL and SAL members that recruit a NEW 2021 AUXILIARY member are also eligible for the drawing. Eight winners will be picked at random for a cash prize of \$75.

Recruiter: _____ Unit #: _____ District #: _____

Recruiter's Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

NAME OF NEW 2021 MEMBER: _____

Transferring and rejoining members **DO NOT** count.
 Submit a **separate** Set the Course entry for EVERY new member you recruit.
 Entry forms must be received at Department PRIOR to May 28, 2021.

Submit completed form to: ALA Wisconsin
 PO Box 140
 Portage, WI 53901
 Fax: 608-745-1947 / Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

This form is available on the department website: www.amlegionauxwi.org > Membership > Award Forms > Set the Course.

MISSION IN ACTION: ST CROIX FALLS

St. Croix Falls American Legion Family Gives Back to Local Community

Throughout the year, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary of St. Croix Falls Post 143 host fundraisers to raise money for veterans and the community. The St. Croix Falls Legion Family presented the St Croix Falls School District with a gift of \$1,500.00. Thirty \$50 gift cards will be given to families in need to be used at the local Coborn's Marketplace Foods.



Pictured: Bev Warner Treasurer, Auxiliary Unit 143; Mike Wilson, Guidance Counselor at St Croix Falls School District; Jim Chapin, 1st Vice Commander, The American Legion Post 143.

M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

Joan Chwala
Department Chairman
Ph: 715-668-5661

Email: ctr68552@centurytel.net

The M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund was established to aid women veterans and female members of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary in attaining a higher education. Interest-free loans of \$800 annually, renewable for up to five years for a total loan limit of \$4,000 are available to women enrolled in college on a full-time basis. Repayment starts within six months after graduation or withdrawal from a full-time academic program with minimum payments of \$50 per month. Some of our borrowers have graduated from college, taken jobs, and are paying back on their loans, but with minimal payments, this moves slowly. Therefore, donations are needed so we can continue issuing loans for our young members.

We have had several borrowers who paid off their loans! A great big thank you to the units who have been supporting these girls but remember they do not need to keep up their membership once the loan is paid – so be sure to give them a call to renew their memberships. If you as a unit do not know if you had a member who has paid up her loan, contact Linda Cason (bookkeeping@amlegionauxwi.org) at Department because she has all that information.

The financial institution that the American Legion Auxiliary uses has notified us that checks for M. Louise Wilson need to include “ALA” in the Pay to the Order line. Effective immediately, please ensure checks for M. Louise Wilson donations are payable to “ALA-MLW Loan Fund” and mailed to ALA-Wisconsin, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901.

Thank you for supporting this great benefit for our members.



Department of Wisconsin JUNIOR SPRING CONFERENCE



Saturday June 12, 2021

1322 Spruce Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901

The Junior Spring Conference will be held at the Oshkosh American Legion Post 70, 1322 Spruce Street, Oshkosh, WI on June 12th, 2021 from 9am to 2pm. There will be activities for all ages, as we celebrate the American Legion Auxiliary’s 100th Birthday. Come play games through the decades, work on a project and have fun with other Junior members.

We will have our meeting to elect our new Honorary Junior Officers and discuss any other important topics at 9am and then the fun begins! The American Legion Family is welcome to attend to see what our Junior members have been and are doing for our Veterans. We ask that all Juniors bring a \$5 “birthday gift” for another Junior member. Registration of \$5.00 per person includes program, project and lunch. If you have any questions, please call Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943, Char Kiesling at 920-428-5655.

2021 Junior Auxiliary Spring Conference Registration Reservation needs to be in by May 14, 2021

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: _____ District #: _____ Unit #: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

(Print Clearly)

NAME / UNIT #	FIRST TIME ATTENDEE ? (YES/NO)	Junior member	Senior Member	REGISTRATION/ Lunch (\$5.00)
GRAND TOTALS:				\$

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please send reservation form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to:
 Laura Calteux 7012 W. Squire Ave. Greenfield, WI 53220

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Diana Sirovina
Gift Shop Supervisor
Phone: 414-321-1479
Email: sirovina@att.net

“Thank you all for impacting our Christmas in such a beautiful way.” “...We thank you so very much for your generous support with the Christmas gift donations for our families.” “Thank you for what you are doing for our veterans...Our girls were so surprised when they got a gift from their dad.” These are just a few of the comments written in thank you notes from veterans’ family members who received gifts from the Christmas Gift Shop this year.

This year, perhaps more than ever, our

Christmas Gift Shop program made a difference in so many lives. Our veterans in long-term care facilities spent many long and lonely hours these past months and were overjoyed when they heard that they would be able to choose gifts for their families this year. It allowed them to feel connected to their loved ones and gave them something positive to focus on.

Our program was the same in many ways, but it was also quite different in others. In past years we had the pleasure of going to the various facilities and visiting with the veterans while we took their orders. Of course, this year that was not possible. We provided a list of gift options and staff members worked with the veterans to help select

items from 144 veterans. As usual, a group of very dedicated ladies gathered together to wrap the 455 gifts with their usual efficiency and style.

The big difference this year was having to ship all the gifts directly to the families. Taking several large carts full of boxes to the UPS facility drew more than a few passing glances from the other customers that day. One woman was particularly curious about the volume of packages, which presented an opportunity to describe the American Legion Auxiliary and our Christmas Gift Shop program. When her transaction was finished, she turned to us, thanked us for caring for these veterans, and handed me a fifty-dollar bill to help with the shipping costs. The

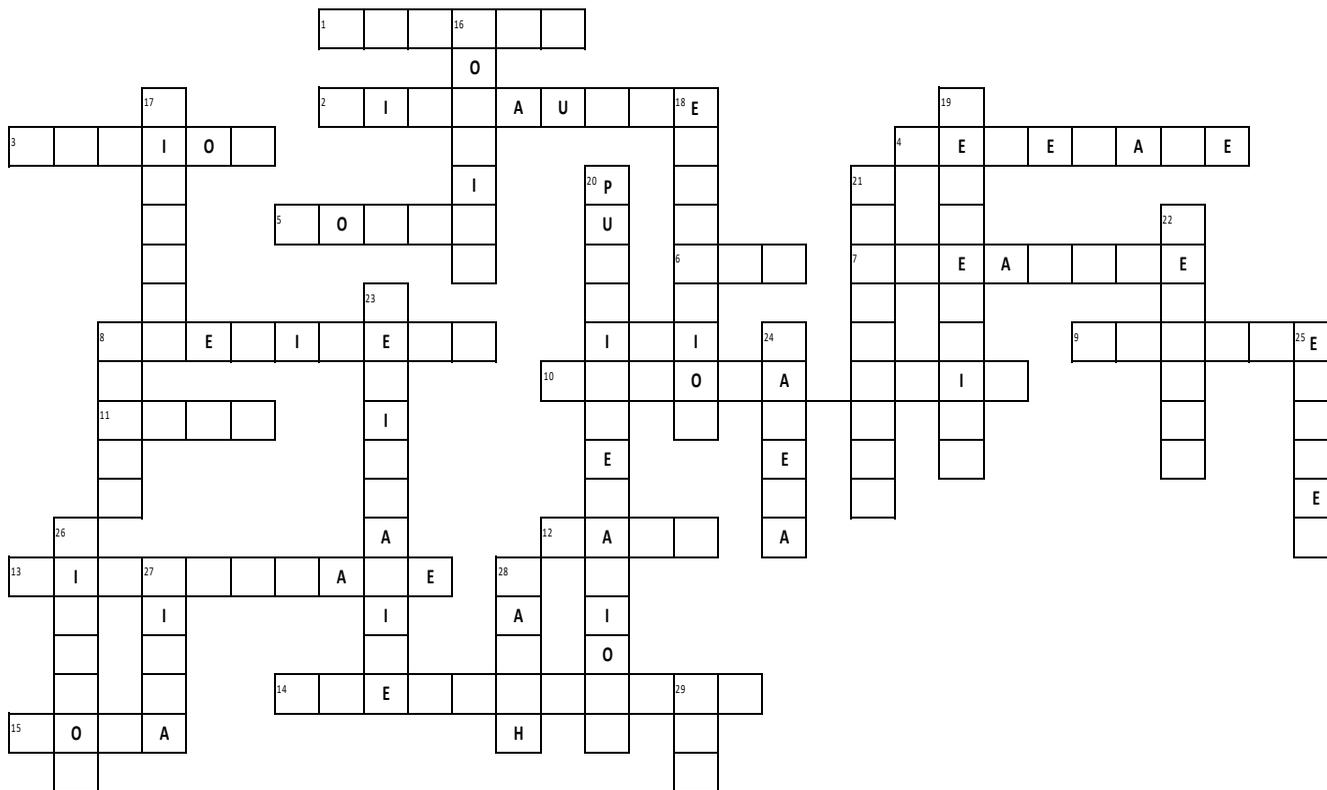
kindness of a complete stranger who had never even heard of the American Legion Auxiliary was very heartwarming.

The program may have looked different in many ways this year, but the important part is that we were able to overcome some unusual logistics to continue this long-standing tradition of service to our veterans. Remember, donations for Christmas Gift Shop can be sent to Headquarters whenever you have funds available. We can only continue to bring this program to our hospitalized veterans because of your support, we cannot do it without you! Thank you for supporting this program and bringing so much joy to these veterans and their loved ones.



AUXILIARY CROSS WORD PUZZLE CONTEST

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS



ACROSS

1. It takes ten of these to charter an ALA unit
2. Site of 2022 National Convention
3. ALA member under 18 years old
4. Voting member at convention
5. Last name of Wisconsin's female Past National Commander
6. ALA program that provides emergency assistance to members (abbrev)
7. The first part of a resolution that explains the reasons for the motion
8. Highest elected position in the ALA
9. Number of District Presidents
10. Money awarded to students for college education expenses
11. Formerly known as VIM
12. President Dickerson's branch of service
13. Six-day conference for high schoolers sponsored by the ALA (2 words)
14. Program that promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship
15. Home state of National President Nicole Clapp

DOWN

8. Memorial flower made by Veterans
16. Fun annual tournament sponsored by the ALA in April
17. Current Wisconsin Department Commander
18. ALA/TAL program that promotes literacy programs
19. Recent milestone celebration of the Legion Family
20. Program designed to increase community awareness of the ALA (2 words)
21. Place to order veteran-made memorial flowers (2 words)
22. Military status of all Legionnaires
23. ALA/TAL program where members contact government officials
24. Eligibility timeframe for Legion Family membership (2 words)
25. Trademarked symbol identifying an organization
26. Purpose statement of an organization
27. First name of current ALA employee of 47 years
28. Award earned by junior members that can be sewn on a vest
29. Number of Wisconsin Past National Presidents

A resolution is a main motion, offered as a resolution either because of its importance or because of its length or complexity. Resolutions for this reason should always be prepared in writing.

Resolutions are usually comprised of two parts, the preamble and the resolved clause(s). However, a preamble is not required for a resolution to be proper. The preamble explains the reasons for the motion, and each idea or reason therein begins with "Whereas." The "resolved" clause is the motion itself and would be written as a motion.

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin bylaws (Article II, Section 1) require that:

4. The Department President shall, not less than 30 days prior to the annual Department Convention, appoint a Resolutions Committee consisting of five members chosen from the delegates.

a. Resolutions presented by an individual member must be approved by the Unit or District to which the member belongs. Resolutions must be received at Department by June 1. Copies of these resolutions shall be transmitted to Units not less than 30 days before Department Convention.

b. Any resolution not approved by a Unit or District, or when the district conference is held after June 1, must be approved by the appropriate Department Chair of the program to which the resolution pertains. The Department Chair will submit approved resolutions to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

c. The Resolutions Committee will forward any approved resolutions with a financial impact to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Once the Resolutions Committee and other appropriate chairmen/committees have acted on all resolutions, the Resolutions Chair will report recommendations to the convention delegates.

A copy of the convention resolutions form is in the February unit mailing and posted on the department website.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
Apr 10-11, 2021	WALA State Bowling	Circle B Recreation Center
Apr 17-18, 2021	Association Tournament	6261 State Road 60, Cedarburg WI 53012
Apr 24, 2021	2nd District Conference	American Legion Post 355 1540 13th Avenue, Grafton WI 53024
May 1, 2021	6th District Conference	American Legion Post 43 113 E Fond du Lac Street, Ripon WI 54971
May 7-9, 2021	TAL Midwinter in May Conference	Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center S3214 Highway BD, Baraboo, WI 53913
June 5, 2021	Department President Joanie Dickerson's Testimonial	Huckleberry's Prairie du Chien, WI
July 14-18, 2021	Department Convention	Madison Marriott West • Middleton, WI
Aug 28-Sep 2, 2021	National Convention	Phoenix, AZ
Aug 27-Sep 1, 2022	National Convention	Milwaukee, WI

Spring Conference Notes:

- 5th District is not having a 2021 Spring Conference.
- Information from the other districts was not available at the time of this printing.

**Subject to change*



(Crossword Puzzle Hint #25)

ALA CENTENNIAL HISTORY CELEBRATION!

As we continue our celebration of the 100th year of the American Legion Auxiliary, we want to make sure the accomplishments of individual units over the past 100 years are not lost – but we need your help! We are looking for a snapshot of your unit and the things you are the proudest of since being chartered. Please complete and mail this form to Joyce Endres, 1147 Fleetwood Ave., Madison WI 53716-1417 by **March 1, 2021**.

Unit #: _____ Unit Name: _____

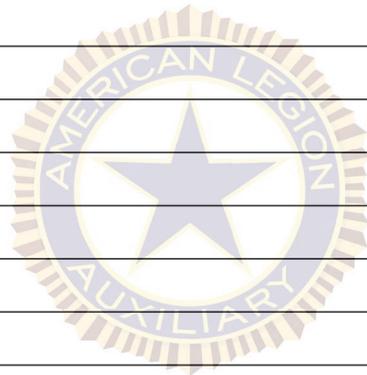
Unit City: _____ Date Chartered: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Briefly describe up to five historical events and/or achievements the unit is most proud of:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



MISSION IN ACTION: TEDDY BEAR OPERATION



Last fall, members of Willard L. Hinzmann ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland responded to the Wisconsin USO's request to make teddy bears for children whose parents are being deployed. The unit picked up uniforms and stuffing from a USO volunteer and requested help from Auxiliary members and the local community. They set a goal of providing 25 bears for a tentative deployment in January 2021.

Each bear is made from uniform material provided by the USO. Velcro is placed on the belly of the bear for parents to attach their name or military service branch. Based on the overwhelming response, the unit completed over 50 bears by mid-October. As word spread about the project, more volunteers came forward and the Teddy Bear Operation continued.

During the COVID pandemic, this project provided a different way to bring Auxiliary and community members together and was a huge success. As of early January, Unit 511 and the Ridgeland community completed 114 bears for the USO in Milwaukee to support deploying military families!

The unit plans to continue making Teddy Bears through May 1st. For more information, please contact Betty Glaser at bls5524@yahoo.com.

DECEMBER 2020 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

1	\$15.00	Jennifer Wrona	Plainfield IL
2	\$15.00	Jane Knutson	Muscoda
3	\$15.00	Patty Dusterhoft	Green Lake
4	\$15.00	Rose Schmidt	Combined Locks
5	\$15.00	Darlene Corbeille	Seymour
6	\$25.00	Jesse Wojahn	Houston MN
7	\$15.00	Anna Tanck	Wausau
8	\$15.00	Doria Disterhaft	Berlin
9	\$15.00	Maureen Smith	Onalaska
10	\$15.00	Nicole Vidal	West Salem
11	\$15.00	Faye Krueger	Boyceville
12	\$15.00	Gail Nelson	Sparta
13	\$500.00	Barbara Przybylski	Hancock
14	\$15.00	Russell Tank	Gleason
15	\$15.00	Donna Anderson	Monroe
16	\$15.00	Connie Miller	Prior Lake MN
17	\$15.00	Shirley Beattie	Boscobel
18	\$15.00	Michael Morack	Blue Springs MO
19	\$15.00	Albert Kolsch	Brookfield
20	\$25.00	Carole Kosterman	Mt Pleasant
21	\$15.00	Eileen Stevens	Stoughton
22	\$15.00	Lizzie & Ben Kiley	Deerfield
23	\$15.00	Linda Jurisch	Clear Lake
24	\$15.00	Carleen Tigner	Greenville GA
25	\$15.00	Catie Brewer	Las Cruces NM
26	\$15.00	Deborah Logerquist	Sturgeon Bay
27	\$25.00	Lynn Mehninger	Johnson Creek
28	\$15.00	Shirley Fandrey	Hatley
29	\$15.00	Susan Mercil	Wabeno
30	\$15.00	Judy Green	Elroy
31	\$15.00	Pat Roeld	Beaver Dam

(Crossword Puzzle Hints)



MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

The LEGION Act, signed into law on July 30, 2019, established two war eras for membership eligibility: WWI (April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918) and WWII to Present (December 7, 1941 to Present)

MISSION IN ACTION: FALL CREEK UNIT 376



Hazel Kuhnert of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 376 in Fall Creek read about needing masks for our veterans. Hazel reached out to Kate Moss and Carol Sumner who had already put their sewing talents to work making masks for area schools and they were excited to get involved helping the veterans. The three teamed up – Hazel assisted with prep and assembly while Kate and Carol sewed. The trio plans to continue making masks until they are no longer needed. Thank you for supporting our veterans and the ALA mission!